

going the way of its larger cousin *Nymphalis polychloros* as a member of our fauna; but there are disturbing signs that the phenomenon is far from being peculiar to our country.

Mr P. F. Whitehead, to whom I mentioned the matter in correspondence, writes that in his part of Worcestershire (Persore district) the species' numbers appeared average up to 1996; after which a marked decline set in, especially noticeable in 2000. Mr Whitehead also kindly sent me a copy of an important paper by J. and M. Kulfan and P. Zach, recording a widespread decline of *A. urticae* in the Slovak Republic between 1993 and 1995, including local extinctions. So far no acceptable reason for these failures presents itself: do readers have any ideas?— A. A. Allen, 49 Montcalm Road, London SE7 BQG.

### ***Cacyreus marshalli* (Butler) (Lep.: Lycaenidae) in Corsica**

The recent rapid spread of the South African lycaenid *Cacyreus marshalli* – the so-called Geranium Bronze – to various Mediterranean localities and substantially northwards may mean that my observation of a single adult in stunningly fresh condition nectaring on lavender in the grounds of the Hôtel Saint Cristophe at Calvi in north-west Corsica on 4 August 2001 is of little real consequence. However, it seems worth putting forward what appears to be possibly the first record from Corsica. The small quantity of planted *Pelargonium* that I could find in the immediate vicinity (about 30 metres distant) looked to be in good condition, but it was not possible to search it thoroughly— MARK R. SHAW, National Museums of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1JF.

### ***Cosmopterix orichalcea* Stainton (Lep.: Cosmopterigidae), a resident species on the Isle of Rum, Scotland**

On 26 June 1967, Peter Wormell, then warden of Rum National Nature Reserve, took a single specimen of *Cosmopterix orichalcea* in a patch of coarse marshy grassland within a recently enclosed area at Harris, Isle of Rum (Pelham-Clinton, 1986 *Ent. Rec.* **98**: 143). No further Scottish specimens have been reported. During the Scottish Entomologists' Meeting on the Isle of Rum (VC 104) from 26 August to 2 September 2000, many leaf-mines were found in *Anthoxanthum odoratum* (Sweet Vernal Grass). They occurred in two widely separated localities on the island, namely Kilmory (O.S. grid reference NG 3606) and Loch Scresort (NM 4099). In all cases the grass was sited out of reach of grazing animals; in the former case on a vegetated ledge of a small cliff and in the latter on the top of a steep-sided hummock just above high-water mark. The mines were initially an enigma, but comparison of them with drawings (prepared by Jäk Korster for *Moths and Butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland* **4** to be published by Harley Books) strongly suggested that the

culprit was *C. orichalcea*. The larvae passed the winter either in a longitudinally rolled grass-blade or, less frequently, within the mine. In early April they were brought in, from the outside garden shed, into a cool basement to enable easier observation. Pupation occurred in the overwintering location between 24 and 28 April 2001. In due course, several incredibly beautiful imagines of *C. orichalcea* emerged between 10 and 15 May 2001. No parasites were reared, nor were any signs of them observed. The species has obviously been resident on the Isle of Rum for some time and probably also occurs at other sites along the west coast of Scotland.— K. P. BLAND, National Museums of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1JF.

### **New food-plant for *Leucoptera orobi* Stainton (Lep.: Lyonetiidae) from the Isle of Rum, Scotland**

Three leaf-mines in *Trifolium pratense* (Red Clover) were collected for me by David Horsfield in Kinloch Glen (O.S. grid reference NG 3900), Isle of Rum (VC 104) on 31 August 2000. The mines formed dark brown blotches and I initially ascribed the mines to *Agromyza nana* Meigen, 1830 (Diptera: Agromyzidae) and so was very surprised when typical *Leucoptera*-like cocoons appeared. On 13 May 2001 a single male *Leucoptera orobi* emerged. Its identity was confirmed by examination of the male genitalia. The form of the bulbous basal portion of the aedeagus corresponded to that illustrated for *orobi* by Pierce and Metcalfe (1935. *The Genitalia of the Tineid Families of the Lepidoptera of the British Isles*) and Buszko (1981. *Klucze do Oznaczenia Owadow Polsk* 27, part 27). The names *L. orobi* and *L. lathyrioliella* (Stainton) have recently been synonymised by Mey (1994. *Deutsche Entomologische Zeitschrift* 41(1), 173-234) but this synonym requires reappraisal (B. Wikström *pers. comm.*). Not only is this the first record of this species from the west coast of Scotland, but Red Clover appears to be an unrecorded food-plant in Britain.— KEITH P. BLAND, National Museums of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1JF.

### ***Nemapogon variatella* (Clemens) (Lep.: Tineidae) imported in Spanish mushrooms, and a larval description**

On 8 January 2001 my wife Pat found a small moth flying around in our spare bedroom, which was being used as a temporary storeroom while a new kitchen was being fitted; I was unable to identify it even to family level. The following day, in the same room, she discovered a further eight live specimens of the same species, one of which was sent to Dr P. H. Sterling who immediately recognised it as being *Nemapogon variatella* and confirmed his identification with an examination of the genitalia.